

toward the renovation of those textures whose composition is chiefly gelatinous. Secondly, the carbonic acid formed from the reduced albumen, unites with the blood; communicates to the blood its dark *venous* colour; and is transferred to the lungs. By the lungs the carbonic acid is expelled from the system; along with a portion of aqueous vapour, derived principally from the weak albumen of the chyle; as formerly explained.

The blood is the source, not only of all the constituent principles of animal bodies, but likewise of all the various *secretions*; many of which secretions differ altogether, in their properties, from those of the primary fluids; and perform secondary offices, of great importance in the animal economy. Other products separated from the blood, are purely *excretions*; as, for instance, the carbonic acid gas from the lungs; which could not be retained in the animal system without destroying life.

Finally, the life of the animal becoming extinct, the essential properties of the matter of which it is composed, resume their natural action, and speedily restore the elements to their original condition.

Such is a summary of the operations of living bodies, which, in the present and in the preceding chapters, we have endeavoured to illustrate. Our insight into those operations, though